

RECORDING OF PROCEEDINGS

Wyoming Board of Agriculture Minutes
November 16, 2005
Conference Call

Members Present: Lee Otto
Gene Hardy
David Graham
Jack Corson
John Etchepare, Director, WY Dept. of Agriculture

Youth Leadership Advisory: David Largent

Members Absent: Helen Jones, President
Spencer Ellis, Vice President
Jim Mickelson
Emily Horton
Leif Udem
Ben Way, Governor Freudenthal's Office
Frank Galey, Dean, UW College of Agriculture

WDA Staff Present: Muff Parker, Recording Secretary
Jim Schwartz, Deputy Director

The meeting was opened with discussion from members.

Lee attended the Wyoming Wheat Marketing meeting in Hawk Springs, but said he didn't have anything to report.

Gene Hardy attended a meeting on the purchase of the Duncan ranch. State Lands personnel were in attendance to answer questions. He indicated the ranch would be sold, but it is unsure now who will be the purchaser. He said State Lands has had an appraisal done and its value is well above that of the average ranch owner. Lee said most people in his area are opposed to the purchase by State Lands. John Etchepare was in Riverton for the Wyoming Association of Conservation District annual meeting and has been a part of several discussions on the subject. He indicated they would like to see a land-use plan developed before the purchase by State Lands. Gene is also concerned about the reduction of staff and offices within FSA. He would like to see a letter to the Congressional Delegation go out to put pressure on congress to increase funding. Muff will ask Lois VanMARK to be on the

December 7 call and if the Board would like to send a letter, Jim Schwartz volunteered to help write one.

David Graham attended the Weed & Pest Conference and the Council voted not to add the Russian Olive to the Designated Weed & Pest List, and voted in favor of removing the Mountain Pine Beetle from the same list. The Board will be holding a hearing once the Joint Resolution is received by the Board. He also noted the Weed & Pest Council is supportive of the draft Predatory Animal bill.

Lee Otto noted he would not be able to attend the Rocky Mountain Farmers Union meeting coming up in Pueblo, CO. John asked him to get the information to the Department so someone could attend. He also said the Goshen County Prairie Dog CRM is up and going.

John noted the Department would be meeting with the Joint Appropriations on January 9.

Jim Schwartz attended the Farm Bureau meeting and found there to be some opposition to the Predator Bill. After the discussion, the general assembly did not make any recommendations. He did say the group was not in favor of cloud seeding because they felt it would impact too many people. He talked about the animal composting meeting held with DEQ and will keep the Board updated. He also reported on the recent meeting regarding the replacement breeding stock program through State Lands. There is 50 million dollars in this program for first and second mortgages with a 200,000 maximum and a total indebtedness of 600,000. The program is not up and running yet because it takes a declaration from the Governor that the drought is over. He will also keep members updated.

The next meeting is tentatively set for March 1.

Respectfully submitted,

Helen Jones, President

Date